What is claimed is:

1. A method of inhibiting B-cell growth in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and

(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

2. A method of inhibiting immunoglobulin production in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and

(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

3. A method of inhibiting dendritic cell-induced B-cell growth and maturation in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and

(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

4. A method of treatment of an autoimmune disease comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and

(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

5. A method of treating hypertension in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and

(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

6. A method of treating renal disorders in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and

(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

7. A method of treating B-cell lympho-proliferate disorders comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereoffused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and

(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

8. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is soluble.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the soluble BAFF-R polypeptide comprises a BAFF-R extracellular domain.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the BAFF-R extracellular domain is fused to an immunoglobulin.

11. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

a) an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

b) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;

c) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;

d) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof; and

e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof.

12. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog is a monoclonal antibody.

13. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog comprises BCMA-IgG.

14. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the animal is a mammal.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the mammal is human.

16. A method of treating, suppressing or altering an immune response involving a signaling pathway between a BAFF-R and BAFF comprising the step of administering an effective amount of an agent capable of interfering with the association between the BAFF-R and BAFF.

17. A method of inhibiting inflammation comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody specific for a BAFF-R or an active fragment thereof.

18. A method of inhibiting inflammation comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody specific for a BAFF-R or an epitope thereof.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide or a fragment thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

a) an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

b) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;

c) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;

d) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof; and

e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof.

21. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide fragment comprises a BAFF-R extracellular domain fused to an imunoglobulin.